



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

March 24, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – YOUTH BEACON
INC., YOUTH BEACON I GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Youth Beacon I Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Youth Beacon, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Youth Beacon I Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Youth Beacon I Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Youth Beacon I Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

The Group Home needs to maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications and maintain documentation that confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. The Group Home also needs to encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:asl

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Linda Watson, Executive Director, Youth Beacon Incorporated
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Youth Beacon I Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90056
License Number: 374601109
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Youth Beacon I Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Not all children have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications that they are taking. There is no documentation to confirm that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations**1. Youth Beacon Inc. management:**

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.
- b. Maintain documentation that confirms that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, not all children are encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. Youth Beacon Inc. management encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

YOUTH BEACON INC.
6220 ACACIA ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90056
818 773-89839 FAX 818 773-8941

January 18, 2008

License: 198202735

County of Los Angeles
Auditor-Controller
Children's Ombudsman Division
500 West Temple St. Room 515-A
Los Angeles CA. 90012-2706

ATT: Candice Rhue

V. Psychotropic Medication Order

All minors have medication orders. All minors that were wards of the court had required documentation. One minor had only authorization from adoptive parent. As of 12/10/07 this minor was deemed a ward of the court and has since, been given a court number and a psychotropic med order has been issued, January 2008.


VII. Life books

Life books have been provided and distributed to minors, 12/07/07.

Facility manager is the contact at the facility that will follow through directly with the court and minors to ensure these procedures are completed in a timely manner.

Facility administrator will oversee these procedures to ensure that they are documented and implemented. Administrator has a procedure in place to review medication order requirements and reviews all on a monthly basis.

Respectfully,



Linda Watson, Administrator